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Associated Press

Willem Oltmans, left, a Dutch journalist, conferring with Representative Richardson Preyer before House Assassinations Committee hearing yesterday.

WITNESS TIES OSWALD TO OILMEN AND CUBANS

Newsman Tells Panel That Suicide Had Related Conspiracy Story

By WENDELL RAWLS Jr.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 1—A Dutch journalist said today he had told the House Assassinations Committee that the mysterious potential witness who allegedly committed suicide Tuesday had told him that Texas oilmen and anti-Castro Cubans had conspired with Lee Harvey Oswald to kill President Kennedy.

Willem Oltmans, a television newsman, was called before the panel after he said in various morning press and television interviews that the alleged conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy involved not only Mr. Oswald but also George de Mohrenschildt, who apparently shot himself in Palm Beach, Fla.; the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency, H. L. Hunt, the late Texas oil millionaire, and Mr. Oswald's assassin, Jack Ruby.

Found Him 'Very Specific'

Mr. Oltmans also gave hearsay testimony that there may have been a $50,000 contract out to kill Mr. Kennedy. He said he had met an oil worker who said he had been offered the contract.

After Mr. Oltmans testified, Representative Richardson Preyer, Democrat of North Carolina who is chairman of the subcommittee investigating the Kennedy assassination, was asked if he believed Mr. Oltmans's story.

"Ask me that question again in a few months," Mr. Preyer replied. "Mr. Oltmans was very specific on some things which can be corroborated, but not as clear on others."

An F.B.I. spokesman said that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had "been interviewed extensively by the F.B.I. and testified before the Warren Commission and all of his information was not pertinent to the assassination." He added:

"All the information coming from Mr. Oltmans about Mr. de Mohrenschildt is all new to us and probably all new to reality."

A source in the F.B.I. said that Mr.

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de Mohrenschildt had attempted suicide four times in the past six months before succeeding last Tuesday.

The committee met two weeks ago to discuss ways of winning enough Congressional and public support of its inquiry to keep the committee alive. Some of the methods discussed were public hearings featuring truculent witnesses and secret briefings that could generate publicity.

Declines to Disclose Evidence

Mr. Oltmans, who testified for three hours in closed session, later declined to tell newsmen what evidence he had to support his claim. But he said that he and Mr. de Mohrenschildt had been friends for about 10 years and that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had said he was a middle-man between Mr. Oswald and Mr. Hunt. He said that Mr. de Mohrenschildt told him that Cubans shot at Mr. Kennedy at the same time that Mr. Oswald did.

A spokesman for Ruth Hunt, Mr. Hunt's widow, his youngest son, Ray Hunt, and the Hunt estate said: "Any allegations by Willem Oltmans that H.L. Hunt was involved with Mr. de Mohrenschildt or Oswald in any way are figments of a strained and distorted imagination. It is ludicrous to state that H.L. Hunt had anything to do with the assassination of President Kennedy."

Mr. Oltmans said that he had given the assassination committee "the name of an F.B.I. official, not [the late director J. Edgar] Hoover, who might be important," and that he had given it a taped interview in which a Cuban exile named Loran Hall says he was offered $50,000 in the office of a Dallas oilman, Lester Logue, to kill President Kennedy.

Mr. Logue called the allegation "ridiculous," and said he would meet with his lawyers to discuss suing Mr. Oltmans for libel. He called Mr. Oltmans a "publicity psychopath," and said, "This just demonstrates the absolute power that the media has to destroy somebody without recourse."

The theory of Mr. Hunt's involvement has been advanced before but has never been corroborated. A spokesman for the Hunt family and estate said that they "have finally had about enough of such charges."

"It has been publicly recorded that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had a history of mental problems," the spokesman said. "If in fact Mr. de Mohrenschildt ever claimed to have had any relationship with H. L. Hunt, those claims must be viewed accordingly."

The commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren that investigated President Kennedy's assassination in 1963 concluded that Mr. Oswald was the lone assassin.

Earlier today, Mr. Oltmans said in an NBC radio interview that the reason the Cubans wanted to kill President Kennedy was that "they thought they had a blood debt to settle—they thought that President Kennedy had betrayed them at the Bay of Pigs." He said that Mr. De Mohrenschildt had told him he never knew, in fact, who killed Mr. Kennedy because an unspecified number of Cubans were supposed to be shooting at the same time Mr. Oswald did.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt, who was born in Russia, reportedly befriended Mr. Oswald and his wife, Marina, before the assassination. Mrs. Oswald also was Russian-born.

Mr. Oltmans said that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had told him that Mr. Oswald had acted at Mr. Mohrenschildt's guidance and instructions.

"Mr. de Mohrenschildt indicated to me very strongly that his ties upwards were towards H.L. Hunt and downstairs to Lee Harvey Oswald," Mr. Oltmans said in an ABC television interview.

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